Record of Interview

Project Title and Code: SIGAR LL-02: Lessons Learned from Aid Coordination in Afghanistan

Date: March 4, 2015

Interviewees: (b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

SIGAR Attendees: Grant McLeod, Subject Matter Expert / Consultant

Location: Teleconference

Purpose: To solicit perspectives on the effectiveness of coordination during their past experiences in Afghanistan. Gain insight into PRT coordination with the broader development agenda.

Non- attribution Basis:	Yes	X	No		
Recorded:	Yes		No	X	

Recording File Record Number:

Prepared By: Grant McLeod, Subject Matter Expert, Consultant

Summary of Key Discussion:

- PRT integration did not happen; Bilateral; No monitoring; No independent audit of the funding in Helmand; Theatre of integration; PRT Steering Committee; Policy notes had these things; Enormous pressure from NATO states to spend; Burn rate; Money as a measure; Structure is built, but soft side of development was not included; Schools used to store animals; Rather a mess; Quick impact; Parallel administration;
- Comparator for Afghanistan was development in the West Bank and Gaza; Late 1990s Taliban were not recognized; had to coordinate a program to deliver, but could not have Taliban ownership; Did not want to empower the Taliban; 2010 2012 lack of political interest in development agenda; PK did not prioritize; National agenda should be around priorities; MOF took it upon self to be interlocutor; how do we get around this real problem; Absence of clean national vision; Afghans say that too many donors were too many priorities; Other hand afghans did have opportunity to articulate national priorities; Absence of practical leadership;
- Two challenges disproportionate weight of the United States and the multiplicity of actors; Major
 impact; Not unreserved fan of Paris and Busan; Not unreasonable starting point, but very difficult; Could
 not understand how the US coordinated with itself; Feeling that US used meetings for ammo to use to
 convince HQ;
- UNAMA cannot coordinate if it is not clear on what it exist to do; Try to bring it down to what it was to
 do; Promote peace process, Human Rights, and Coherent approach to development; Made it easier; UN
 exists to provide technical support; Problem with coherence was that the UN could not coordinate, but
 could promote coherence; Encourage government to take the lead; Team up with World Bank; Create
 spaces for discussion; Gap between diplomatic and development actors; Political people not insistent on
 the rule book for development;

Follow-up:

None